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|  | Project concept form  June 2022  Title:  Date: |
|  | **Primary contact:**  Name:  Organisation:  Tel:  Email: |

# 

We acknowledge the traditional custodians across all the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and emerging. We recognise that these lands and waters have always been places of teaching, research and learning.

Overview

Natural Hazards Research Australia (the Centre) is Australia’s research and implementation centre for natural hazard resilience and disaster risk reduction. The Centre began on 1 July 2021 and is now working closely with the Australian government and other partners across Australia to deliver a strategic research agenda for the nation. The Centre is built on the strong foundations of its preceding Cooperative Research Centres, the Bushfire CRC and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

The Centre’s mission is to work with partners and the community on research that is useful, actionable and supportive of better decision-making to save lives and protect communities. The Centre will generate and support research that is useful, usable and used by the sector and community. As such, the Centre welcomes submissions of project ideas for potential inclusion in our research program. Ideas can be short-, medium- or long-term projects. Only research that can be effectively translated and implemented by end-user organisations will be funded.

The Centre’s research plan will be outlined in a rolling *Biennial Research Plan*. These plans will be reviewed annually to make sure the Centre is responding to new knowledge needs.

The first *Biennial Research Plan* will cover the research for the second half of 2022 through to 2024. In the meantime, we have identified the Centre’s more immediate research focus areas, which enable us to address short-term research needs while we develop our first *Biennial Research Plan.*

These focus areas are:

* Dynamic building damage and repair modelling​
* Dynamic situational awareness​
* Natural hazard focused risk management and risk reduction​
* Incident management and decision-making in a dynamic and uncertain environment​
* Responsive recovery​
* Understanding the needs and values of communities through a natural hazard lens​
* Strengthening and preservation of business and community lifelines​.

Further information about these focus areas is available to download from <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/NatHazResAus%20Focus2022%2004.pdf>

Who can submit

Research concepts must be submitted by representatives of one of the Centre’s partner organisations, including agencies, associations, federal government, state government or local government organisations.

A list of the Centre’s partner organistions in each of these categories are available at <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/about-us/our-network>.

Representatives from research/academic and other organisations that may wish to collaborate on projects cannot submit project concepts directly to the Centre but are encouraged to work with the Centre’s partner organisations to contribute to the development of research concepts that can then be submitted by those partner organisations.

# Making a submission

The Centre strongly encourages projects to be submitted initially as a **concept**, before a fully developed project **brief** is prepared. This allows the Centre to work collaboratively with the stakeholders to develop and agree on the final concept before a more detailed project brief is developed.

The Centre can receive concepts for new projects at any time. However, project concepts will be formally considered for funding twice a year as a part of the Centre’s ongoing research plan, with those evaluations occurring each April and October. Project concepts and developed project briefs received with requests for more urgent approval at other times must include a strong rationale for why the research should be considered at that time.

Project concepts must be submitted on this form via email to [research@naturalhazards.com](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com).au. While letters of support are not required, they may be included where available.

# Prioritising projects

Projects will be prioritised for inclusion in the Centre’s research program based on the following considerations:

**Project level considerations**

* Alignment with the Centre's Biennial Research Plan (or the current research focus areas in the interim).
* Addresses a gap in knowledge and has clear research questions that can be addressed through an academic research project.
* Potential benefits and outcomes of the research are clear and well demonstrated.
* More than one stakeholder organisation will benefit from the outcomes.
* Strong, demonstrated stakeholder support for research translation and implementation within end-user organisations.

**Program level considerations**

* The representativeness of the Centre’s overall research program. This includes consideration of the Centre’s research priorities, location of research across Australian states and territories, types of natural hazards addressed, and the spread of tactical (less than one year), applied (one to three years), and strategic projects (three to five years).
* Recent natural hazard events and findings and recommendations arising from related inquiries.
* Jurisdictional and sector needs and priorities.

Projects are prioritised in a three-step process.

**Step one:** A panel of Centre representatives will review project concepts taking the above considerations into account. The panel will consult with the supporting stakeholders regarding the concept's alignment with the Centre’s research program and the decision to take the concept to step two.

**Step two**: Where it is agreed that project concepts should proceed to the next step, Centre staff will work with supporting stakeholders to develop a full project brief.

**Step three:** Project briefs and a recommendation for their funding priority will be presented to the Centre’s Research and Implementation Committee for endorsement prior to seeking Board approval for funding.

Once project briefs are approved for funding, the Centre’s staff will consult with supporting stakeholders to determine the best path to market to contract an appropriate research provider to undertake the project.

Contact

For assistance with developing a project concept or further information about the prioritisation of projects, please contact [research@naturalhazards.com.au](mailto:research@naturalhazards.com.au) or the Node Research Manager for your state or territory, see <https://www.naturalhazards.com.au/contact-us>.

# Title: <*Insert here>*

***Please note:*** *Text in blue italics is provided as guidance and can be removed once completed.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Background** *(max 200 words)* | *Where did this project concept come from? Who has been involved in developing it so far?*  <Insert text> |
| **Problem definition** *(max 400 words)* | *Why is this project needed? For example: What knowledge gap or problem do stakeholders need addressed? What would stakeholders like to be able to do that they currently cannot?*  <Insert text> |
| **Aims** *(max 200 words)* | *What would this project aim to achieve? How would it help to address the needs identified above?*  <Insert text> |
| **Expected outcomes** *(max 200 words)* | *What are the expected outcomes (benefits and impacts) from this project? Include both tangible (measurable) and intangible (unmeasurable) benefits.*  <Insert text> |
| **Implementation of the research outcomes** *(max 200 words)* | *How will the outcomes of the research be implemented by organisations supporting this research?*  <Insert text> |
| **Measures of success** *(max 400 words)* | *What measure(s) will the research team use to demonstrate success to the stakeholder organisations? How will it be determined that research outcomes are better than current approaches / solutions? What are the timelines of implementation? When will we see change?* |
| **Known constraints** *(max 200 words)* | *Are there any internal or external circumstances that may affect the project, e.g. data availability, timing, integration into existing systems?*  <Insert text> |
| **Communication** *(max 200 words)* | *Who needs to know about the outcomes of this research? Who would benefit from it? Who would use it? Who can influence how this research is translated and used? How will the benefits of the research be best demonstrated to those people?*  <Insert text> |
| **Other supporting information** *(max 200 words)* | *Please include any additional information needed to understand this project concept and its potential benefits.*  <Insert text> |
| **Supporting stakeholders** | *Please include names and contact information for 4-5 people who can support the development of a full project brief for this research.*  <Insert text> |